Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1 to 9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) An optically active compound of the general formula (1),

$CH_3(CH_2)_n$

wherein n is an integer of 3 to 7, X is –Ph-COO-Ph-Ph-, -Ph-Ph-COO-Ph-, -Ph-OOC-Ph-Ph-, -Ph-Ph-OOC-Ph-, -Ph-Ph-Ph-, -Cy-COO-Ph-Ph-, -Ph-Ph-OOC-Cy-, -Ph-OOC-Ph-COO-Ph-, -Ph-OOC-Cy-COO-Ph-, -Ph-OOC-Np-COO-Ph-, -Np-OOC-Ph- or –Ph-COO-Np- in which –Ph- is a 1,4-phenylene group, -Cy- is a trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group and -Np- is a 2,6-naphthylene group, and C* is an asymmetric carbon.

11. (Currently Amended) The optically active compound of claim [[1]] 10, which has the general formula (1) in which n is 4 ~~to~~ or 6.

12. (New) The optically active compound of claim 10, which has the general formula (1) in which X is –Ph-COO-Ph-Ph-,
-Ph-Ph-COO-Ph-, -Ph-OOC-Ph-Ph- or -Ph-Ph-OOC-Ph-.

13. (New) The optically active compound of claim 10, which has a helical twisting power (HTP) of 10 or more.

14. (New) The optically active compound of claim 10, which induces a helical pitch and has a property that the induced helical pitch decreases in length with an increase in temperature.

15. (New) The optically active compound of claim 10, wherein two asymmetric carbons shown in the general formula (1) are R-configuration isomers together or S-configuration isomers together.

16. (New) A chiral dopant of the general formula (1) in claim 10 for a nematic liquid crystal.

17. (New) A nematic liquid crystal composition containing at least one member compound of the optically active compound of the general formula (1) in claim 10.

18. (New) A liquid crystal display device having the nematic liquid crystal composition recited in claim 18 interposed between substrates having an electrode each.